

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /058 W
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O 251845Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3593

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2127

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (UPGRADE MSG TO IMMEDIATE)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: P

OR SOPN GY US

SUBJ: PRESS COMMENT ON USG REACTIONS TO PM'S CTOBER 17 SPEECH

SUMMARY: THE GOG-OWNED PRESS, IN AN ARTICLE TITLED "WHY DID U.S. OVER REACT?", TRACES USG-GOG ACTIONS AND REACTIONS REGARDING BURNHAM'S OCTOBER 17 SPEECH IMPLICATING USG IN CUBANA CRASH. THE ARTICLE ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN WHY THE GOG DOES NOT ACCEPT U.S. ASSURANCES OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRASH AT FACE VALUE. IT QUESTIONS THE MOTIVES FOR RECENT U.S. ACTIONS WHICH RISK A BREAK IN U.S.-GUYANESE RELATIONS, AND CALLS FOR A NEW LOOK AT THESE TIES, ON GUYANA'S TERMS, IN VIEW OF GUYANA'S PRESENT POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GOG-OWNED "SUNDAY CHRONICLE" OF OCTOBER 24 PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE BY ITS CHIEF POLITICAL REPORTER MOHAMED HAMALUDIN TITLED "WHY DID U.S. OVER REACT?" THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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ARTICLE TRACES THE HISTORY OF USG-GOG ACTIONS AND REACTIONS, RESULTING FROM PM BURNHAM'S OCTOBER 17 SPEECH (IN WHICH HE ATTEMPTED TO IMPLICATE THE U.S. IN THE RECENT CUBANA CRASH), FROM THE RECALL OF OUR CHARGE TO THE GOG'S RESPONSE TO WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE AN INSULT TO THE PM FROM THE USG.

2. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO NOTE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DENIAL OF OCTOBER 18 IN BOSTON, BUT ADDS THAT "ALL OF THIS AMOUNTS TO A VAST DEGREE OF RE-ASSURING, BUT NO SUCH ASSURANCE CAN BE TAKEN OUTSIDE OF THE CONTEXT OF THE GENERAL EXPERIENCE WITH DR. KISSINGER AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT."

3. HAMALUDIN CITES CHILE, THE BAY OF PIGS, THE PENTAGON PAPERS, WATERGATE, AND RECENT REMARKS BY FORMER SECRETARY BUTZ AS REASONS WHY GUYANA DOES NOT ACCEPT USG ASSURANCES AT FACE VALUE. HE QUESTIONS AMERICAN "OVER-REACTION TO GUYANA'S SKEPTICISM," AND ASKS "IS THE U.S. SEEKING TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHARGES TO FURTHER DISCREDIT THE SOCIALIST POLICIES OF THE COUNTRY? IS IT WILLING TO RISK A BREAK IN RELATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE BY CALLING THE PRIME MINISTER A LIAR?" HAMALUDIN ANSWERS HIS OWN QUESTIONS BY CLAIMING THAT THE U.S. WANTS TO "DISCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANOTHER SOCIALIST STATE IN THE HEMISPHERE."

4. DESPITE THE VITUPERATIVE TONE OF THE ARTICLE, HAMALUDIN SEEMS TO HINT AT THE DESIRABILITY OF IMPROVED U.S.-GUYANESE RELATIONS WHEN HE CONCLUDES: "THE U.S. MUST SURELY KNOW THAT FRIENDSHIP MUST BE SEEN IN ACTION, AND A PEOPLE'S FRIENDSHIP MUST BE COURTED...ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT.... THE UNFORTUNATE DIALOGUE OVER THE CUBAN PLANE INCIDENT SHOULD BE USED FOR A FRESH LOOK AT GUYANA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF REALITIES IN GUYANA TODAY. THESE REALITIES WILL HARDLY CHANGE."

5. COMMENT: HAMALUDIN'S ARTICLES FREQUENTLY REFLECT GOG THINKING. HIS CONCLUDING REMARKS SEEM TO CONFIDENTIAL

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INDICATE GOG WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE U.S.-GUYANESE RELATIONS, BUT ONLY ON GUYANA'S TERMS. UPDATE OF OTHER PRESS COVERAGE ON CUBANA INCIDENT WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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AMEMASSY KINGSTON
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